

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CCO-00 H-01 IO-10 L-02

NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 OCE-00 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00

USSS-00 SY-04 WRD-01 SCCT-01 /072 W

----- 094832

R 081804Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5679

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA WASHDC

FAA BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 00535

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINS, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-HIJACKING AT HEATHROW

REF: PARIS 0367

1. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE ON EVENING JAN. 7 REPORTED "WELL-INFORMED SOURCES" IN PARIS HAD INDICATED IT WAS "PERMANENT DOCTRINE" OF GOF SINCE TERRORIST INCIDENT AT THE HAGUE TO FORBID LANDING OF ANY HIJACKED AIRCRAFT ON FRENCH TERRITORY. ACCORDINGLY, GOF HAD MADE KNOWN TO BRITISH AUTHORITIES THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS AIRCRAFT HIJACKED THAT AFTERNOON AT HEATHROW WAS NOT AUTHORIZED PENETRATE FRENCH AIRSPACE AND THAT MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO DEAL WITH SITUATION SHOULD THAT PROHIBITION NOT BE RESPECTED. WE ALSO NOTE IN PRESS STORIES ON HEATHROW HIJACKING THAT MENTION IS MADE OF GOF REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE AIRCRAFT TO LAND IN FRANCE.

2. SINCE FOREGOING IS IN CONTRADICTION WITH GOF
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STATEMENT TO EMBASSY REPORTED REFTEL THAT GOF WAS

PREPARED PERMIT AIRCRAFT HIJACKED AT HEATHROW TO LAND
AT PARIS, WE SOUGHT CLARIFICATION FROM GEN. WALTER AT
SGAC. HE SAID THAT INITIAL DECISION TO PERMIT AIRCRAFT
TO LAND IN FRANCE WAS TAKEN AT TIME WHEN IT WAS
BELIEVED AIRCRAFT MIGHT ALREADY BE IN THE AIR AND
REFUSAL TO AUTHORIZE LANDING COULD HAVE JEOPARDIZED
SAFETY OF THOSE ABOARD. HOWEVER, WHEN GOF AWARE THAT
AIRCRAFT WAS STILL ON THE GROUND IN LONDON THE
QUESTION OF LANDING AUTHORIZATION WAS GIVEN MORE
CAREFUL STUDY ON FRENCH SIDE, AS A RESULT OF WHICH GOF
THEREUPON MADE KNOWN TO BRITISH THAT IT DID NOT "DESIRE"
AIRCRAFT TO LAND ON FRENCH TERRITORY. THIS BEING SAID,
HE ADDED THAT GOF WAS OF COURSE NOT SO INFLEXIBLE THAT
IT WOULD HAVE PREVENTED LANDING IF TO DO SO WOULD HAVE
JEOPARDIZED SAFETY OF AIRCRAFT AND CREW. HOWEVER, HE
SAID, GOF HAD FELT COMPELLED EXPRESS ABOVE "DESIRE" TO
BRITISH AND TO TAKE PUBLIC POSTURE IT DID BECAUSE GOF
IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO HIJACKING AND HAS NO INTENTION
OF BECOMING A HAVEN FOR FUTURE HIJACKERS.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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